

LABOR CLA ION

The Official Journal of the San Francisco Labor Council

Vol. XXXIV

San Francisco, January 24, 1936

No. 52

California State Unemployment Insurance Act Provisions

The following synopsis of the California State Unemployment Insurance Act has been written by Theodore Johnson, assistant secretary of the San Francisco Labor Council, for the information of unions and their officials and membership.

By THEODORE JOHNSON

DURING the year 1936 the state and federal unemployment insurance laws are the only social insurance feature of the complete social security legislation that will be in force in California. The old-age benefit feature will not be enforced until after January 1, 1937.

Only employees of an employer or concern employing eight or more employees during a year will come under the unemployment insurance laws.

The following employments are exempt from this law:

List of Exempted Employments

(1) Agricultural labor (of which the proper definitions will have to be worked out by the State Unemployment Reserves Commission or the courts), (2) domestic service, (3) officers and members of the crew of every vessel on the navigable waters of the United States, (4) minors working for relatives, (5) employees of state, municipal or federal governments, (6) employees of charitable and educational organizations, which may be defined by the commission so as to exempt labor organizations and their officers and employees.

Under No. 1 the commission has already declared that the following employments are not included in the term "agricultural labor": Citrus by-product plants, canneries, wineries, creameries, slaughter houses and meat packing establishments.

The commission also has ruled that fruit and horticultural labor is included in the term "agricultural labor," also dairying and packing and preparation for market of all fruits, nuts, vegetables, etc.

A ruling also was made than an employer's contributions to private pension or benefit schemes and benefits paid to employees thereunder are not to be reckoned as taxable for unemployment insurance.

An employer is one who hires and fires, pays wages and who operates, during twenty days in twenty different weeks, eight or more persons for a part of the day.

Employee and Employer Contributions

All employers are to deduct unemployment reserve contributions from employees after January 1, 1936, and hold them until July 15, 1936, before paying them over to the commission. During 1936 the employer will collect 45/100 parts of 1 per cent of the wages earned from each employee. The employer pays as his share twice the amount the employee pays, or 90/100 parts of 1 per cent, and 10/100 parts of 1 per cent to the federal gov-

ernment. The employee pays nothing to the federal government on account of unemployment insurance, and the part paid by the employer is paid back to the state for administration of the unemployment system.

Hotels may credit as wages to the employee \$3 a week for rooms and \$1 a day for meals.

No wages or compensation to employees in any form, earned during the year 1935, will be subject to the unemployment tax levied for 1936.

Termination of Employment

Regular employees when discharged or leaving an employment will receive and should demand from the employer a written "Notice of Termination" of employment, which should contain the following items:

(a) Name of employer, (b) name of employee, (c) employee's position or nature of work, (d) reason for termination of employment—(1) left voluntarily, (2) discharged, (3) laid off, and reason why, (4) other reason; (e) date of termination of employment, (f) average weekly wage (if under \$30 a week, show actual amount, if over \$30 a week show "in excess of \$30 per week"), (g) number of hours in normal work-week, (h) average number weekly hours worked during the fifty-two weeks previous to becoming unemployed, (i) total number of weeks, during the previous 104 weeks, for which contributions were made.

A temporary employee will receive and should demand when leaving the employment a receipt instead of the notice to be given regular employees. This receipt should contain the following information: (1) Name of employer, (2) signature of employee (and/or his name furnished to employer), (3) number of hours' work, and for what period, (4) rate of wage, (5) amount of deduction for contribution to unemployment fund.

The aforesaid notice or receipt should be care-

The Soldiers' Bonus

Here is the way the "baby bond" bonus bill will operate, according to the United Press.

The government will issue bonds to the veterans in exchange for their adjusted service compensation certificates. The bonds will be dated June 15, 1936, and can not be cashed before then. They will be in \$50 denominations. Each ex-service man holding a certificate will be given enough of these bonds to equal the value of his certificate minus the amount he may have borrowed on it.

The veteran does not have to cash his bonds immediately, which may be done at any government postoffice. If he holds the bonds they will become more valuable with the years; they bear 3 per cent interest. The bonds will mature in 1945.

For example, if an ex-soldier held a certificate for \$1021 and had borrowed no money on it he would receive twenty \$50 bonds and \$21 in cash. All amounts of less than \$50 will be paid to the veteran in money.

fully kept by the employee after leaving his employment, as his claims for benefits depend upon ability to prove his claims.

Accurate Records Must Be Kept

In case of bankruptcy of employer or his insolvency the Unemployment Fund and the federal government have preferred claims for amount of taxes due to them on account of the state and federal insurance funds.

In case employer maintain guaranteed employment plans, approved by the commission, there may be yearly periods of exemption for payment of tax by both employers and employees, but no rules have as yet been issued specifying what credits shall be apportioned to employees in such a case.

Section 95 of the state act reads: "Every employer shall keep a true and accurate record of (a) all his employees, (b) the hours worked for him by each employee, (c) the wages paid by him to each employee, (d) such other information as the commission deems necessary to the proper administration of the act."

Requirements under subdivision (d) in the future will authorize employers to require employees to give certain additional information regarding each employee, and require employees to co-operate with the employer in giving such information.

Employees, pursuant to section 62, can not waive any of his or their rights under the act.

Payments of Benefits

Benefits are payable after January 1, 1938, two years, 1936 and 1937, being required to accumulate the fund out of which benefits will be paid. But probably no benefits will be paid for any unemployment occurring before January 1, 1938, as it must begin also after that date.

To be eligible for benefits the following conditions are to be fulfilled: (1) Notice of unemployment must be given to the Unemployment Commission, (2) the applicant must be physically able to work and must be available for work whenever called upon by his employer or by the public employment office in the district where last employed or in which applicant resides, with due notice to report for work.

Unemployment Benefits

(1) Applicant must not have left his employment or stayed away therefrom on account of a labor dispute. But if the dispute is settled and he is not re-employed, his unemployment benefits will be calculated from the time of the settlement of the trade dispute.

(2) Students working during vacations are not entitled to claim benefits for loss of employment during such vacation.

(3) If without good cause he has refused suitable employment offered him, he can not claim benefits for time during such refusal.

(4) If he has not been a resident of California for at least one year immediately preceding the beginning of his unemployment, and has not

worked for at least twenty-six weeks preceding the time when he may claim benefit.

The employee will be entitled to total unemployment benefit for each week subsequent to the waiting period, if totally unemployed during such week.

Benefits may be paid to an employee partially unemployed during any week during which the wages paid for his work are less than the total unemployment benefits would amount to if he were totally unemployed.

Waiting Period and Benefits

A waiting period, or time required after unemployment begins before benefits are payable, is provided.

For the years 1938 and 1939 the waiting period will be four weeks after the beginning of the unemployment. Thereafter the waiting period will be three weeks. It is an undecided question whether there is to be a waiting period or how long it will have to be in regard to the payment of partial benefits.

Where an employee has lost his employment through misconduct or through voluntarily leaving his employment without cause attributable to the employer, the waiting period is doubled; that is, eight weeks during 1938 and 1939 and thereafter six weeks.

It is believed that the weeks constituting the waiting period must be consecutive, so that any break through temporary employment will cancel the previously earned waiting period.

If the eligible employee is totally unemployed he shall receive benefits at the rate of 50 per cent of the average weekly wage, but not more than \$15 a week nor less than \$7 a week. A partially unemployed person would receive the difference between his earnings and the foregoing maximum and minimum.

The maximum number of weeks of benefits which an employee is entitled to receive for total unemployment or the equivalent total amount of partial unemployment benefits is limited as follows:

(1) For each previous four weeks of unemploy-

American Industry's 'Black Hole of Calcutta'

After years of suffering for hundreds if not thousands of workers and a lingering death for at least 200, the Union Carbide tunnel at Gauley Bridge, West Virginia, is going to be investigated by federal authority. The House of Representatives has adopted a resolution introduced by Congressman Vito Marcantonio of New York, calling for an investigation of silicosis throughout the country by the Labor Committee of the House.

The inquiry doubtless will begin at Gauley Bridge. The tunnel driven by the Union Carbide to develop power is not yet finished, but has been in progress for years, and a source of danger and death all that time.

Silicosis, often called miners' consumption, is a gradual hardening of the lungs caused by inhaling silica dust. Practically, silica dust is powdered glass; for the greater part of all glass is the mineral known as silica. Quartz and flint are two natural forms of silica in a pure state, but the mineral exists in scores of different kinds of rocks; and the Gauley Bridge tunnel went through a large deposit of it.

Justice Long Delayed

The delay in getting any justice out of this case is incredible. Before the work had gone on a year men began to suffer from lung troubles, which were usually diagnosed as bronchitis or tuberculosis.

Dr. L. R. Harless of Gauley Bridge seems to have been the first to recognize this insidious form of death; but discovery did not stop the slaughter.

More than two years ago a suit was tried at the court in Fayetteville, W. Va., to test the right of the victims to compensation. More than one hundred men suffering from silicosis were brought into court. The foremen who testified for the company coughed almost constantly on the witness stand, and the doctors said that these foremen had silicosis, too.

Men testified that a dozen pneumatic drills would be pounding at one time in the tunnel, with

practically no water to keep down the dust. One man, who has escaped the disease—to date—by some miracle, said that in one day he helped carry out of the tunnel nineteen men who had collapsed from the dust. No protective masks were supplied by the company.

No Protection for Men

Nevertheless, the jury disagreed. The man who brought the suit died of silicosis. So did four of his housemates, all of whom worked in the tunnel. So have others; and the lowest guess at their numbers is 200. And there are hundreds more who are doomed to death from the same cause after two, three, five or more years of invalidism.

Though the company did not protect the men, it was zealous in protecting itself. It has taken full advantage of the slow pace of the disease; and men who quit the company's employ more than a year before filing suit find their cases thrown out of court.

Litigation was so expensive and uncertain that a sort of compromise was arranged; but it was of the jug-handle variety, all on one side. A few hundred dollars were given to those who sued, the amount depending on the size of his family and the severity of the case. Widows fared better than men still living but helpless.

Senator Speaks Mind

Rush D. Holt, America's youngest senator, spoke his mind freely to a reporter.

"This is American industry's 'Black Hole of Calcutta,'" declared Senator Holt. "I have had firsthand knowledge of it for years—in spite of a combine of big business silence that has kept the general public from learning the truth."

"The company knew what it was running into. Test borings before the tunnel was attempted showed rich veins of silica sand. Gas masks were not provided, neither was proper ventilation."

Subversive Elements In San Diego Council

Joseph Casey of San Francisco, personal representative of President William Green of the American Federation of Labor, appeared unexpectedly at a recent meeting of the San Diego Federated Trades Council and announced the dismissal of all ranking officials of the Council.

"Because of certain subversive elements in this Council," said Casey, "I was sent here by President Green to make an investigation. I also have specific instructions to take charge of the Central Labor Council in San Diego County."

Casey then declared all officers illegally in office and removed them.

It was announced that Casey would appoint new officers who will carry on the Council's business until a legal election can be held.

Those relieved of office include Harry C. Steinmetz, president; Walter M. Stutz, vice-president; A. C. Rogers, secretary; members of the executive board, Fred Graham, Mrs. Daisy Worcester, John Wilbur, Jack Krum and J. Wallace Brown, and Walter Barnes, Stanley M. Gue and H. C. Kinsman, members of the board of control.

A worker's first duty is to buy union-made goods.

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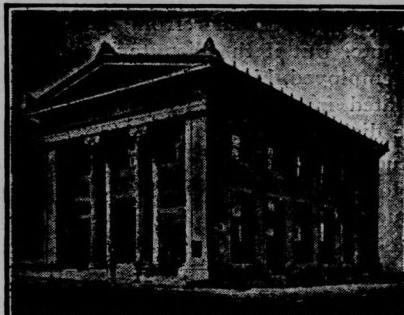
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Unemployment Solution Lies in Black Thirty-Hour Bill

"IF, IN 1930, Senator Black's thirty-hour week bill had been passed by Congress and signed by the President, it would have done more to solve the problem of getting jobs for the eleven million workers still out of work than all the other legislation passed."

This was the keynote in an address of I. M. Ornburn, secretary-treasurer of the Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor. Ornburn spoke over the Columbia Broadcasting system from Washington, D. C.

"We are now passing into the seventh year of an economic depression which has never had its equal in all history," said Ornburn. "While there has been a large degree of recovery in certain business lines, and stocks are generally on the upgrade, the upturn has not been reflected in permanent employment for workers. It is true that through governmental projects and other federal activities many men and women are temporarily employed, but there are still over eleven million workers who are waiting for steady work at a wage which will keep their families in comfort according to the American standard of living.

Regular Jobs Imperative

"Regular employment means increased purchasing power, and only through work at decent wages for all can America pull itself out of this disastrous economic situation which still confronts over forty million souls when we include the entire family, with eleven million jobless workers who are willing to work.

"Senator Black's thirty-hour week bill is the most constructive feature that has been advanced for the solution of unemployment. It will mean a six-hour day and a five-day week. It is the paramount issue of the American Federation of Labor.

"It is hoped that everyone who is interested in a shorter work-week program will write to both their United States senators and also their representatives and ask them to vote for the Black-Connery thirty-hour week bill. Do not delay. Write today.

Only One Solution

"What is the solution of this gigantic problem of the man who wants a job? Are we going to continue gambling with fate for another seven years and just trust to luck as the dice-thrower who mumbles 'seven-come-eleven,' hoping that it will be only four more years instead of seven? No, we can't, and Americans won't wait! We must solve this unemployment problem and the only practical solution is the one which is offered by the American Federation of Labor. It is shorter hours with no reduction in pay. By reducing hours, more workers can obtain jobs. By maintaining the prevailing weekly wage scale, and with more men at work, we shall be able to increase purchasing power. It is simple arithmetic.

"The only certain way in which workers of America can meet technological progress, that is the use of machinery and new inventions, is to join a labor union, and when they have joined in

sufficient numbers they will be able, through collective bargaining, to shorten the hours of work and maintain the American wage standard.

"When hours are shortened machinery will be a blessing instead of a curse. There will be more time for education and self-development—more time for spending the increased purchasing power which will accrue from shorter hours with the same pay. This is the path and the only path on which America will work its way back to better times for the average citizen.

Nation Must "Buy American"

"As hours are adjusted to absorb the idle workers we must continue to buy our own products. First, we must buy all the American-made goods that we can to keep the purchasing power at home. Then we must buy union-made goods and union services to maintain the high standards of wages, hours and working conditions which have been established by and only by the American labor movement.

"The American Federation of Labor, and especially those labor unions affiliated with the Union Label Trades Department, are also deeply interested in the measure before Congress known as the Walsh bill, which provides that all persons who sell to the United States government or enter into any contractual relations with it shall conform to the conditions contained in certain specifications, the purpose of which will be to maintain fair labor standards in connection with purchases, loans or grants where federal funds are involved directly or indirectly. This measure seeks to confirm in law the principle that the first charge on any industry is the performance of its duty to society by paying adequate wages and maintaining decent working conditions. It will prevent the purchase by federal officials of foreign-made and other unfair products to be used by the government.

"The bill has passed the United States Senate and is now before the House of Representatives. In behalf of the Union Label Trades Department I urge all members of labor unions and their friends to write to their congressman and ask him to support the Walsh bill."

Union Label Support Urged

Stressing the benefits of supporting union label goods, Ornburn said:

"If you desire to buy only American-made goods, made under American standards, always ask for union-labeled products.

"If you want to obtain immediate results in

securing greater purchasing power, try collective bargaining through a labor union and collective buying under the union label.

"The labor movement is the only organized effort to place more money in a worker's pocket-book, and that problem surely concerns most of us. Results are what count, and they can not be obtained by acting alone. The 'big business' interests may preach 'rugged individualism' for the rest of us, but when it comes to action they join their own organizations and through them they have obtained at least 80 per cent of the nation's wealth."

Railroad Trainmen Join With

Other Unions Against Sales Tax

The Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen has joined with the California State Federation of Labor, the Building Trades Councils of Los Angeles and San Francisco, and other groups in taking unanimous action for the repeal of the sales tax and in indorsing the sales tax repeal amendment to be voted on this year.

In the resolution adopted particular attention was called to the tax exemption features. The amendment abolishes \$1000 of the assessed values of all homesteads from taxation at once. Gradually during the next five years all remaining taxes on improvements and tangible personal property, products of industry, are removed.

In part the resolution says: "Since the revenue thus abolished, as is provided for, is to be made up by increased levies against our publicly created land values, and which is a natural fund due to the presence of the community and its progress; and since the amendment grants such exemptions from existing taxes as will more than offset the increased taxes on the value of lands held by the large majority of working farmers, homeowners, and business men; and since the increased burden is designed to fall and will fall on those who hold land out of use—on the big landed corporations, estates and land speculators whose land has little or no improvements upon it, thus forcing them to use the land or permit others to use it without paying an extortion price to do so"; and the amendment was adopted.

The voiding of all old registration of voters by the state was brought to the attention of the legislative representatives and the resolution urged all members of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen to register at once.

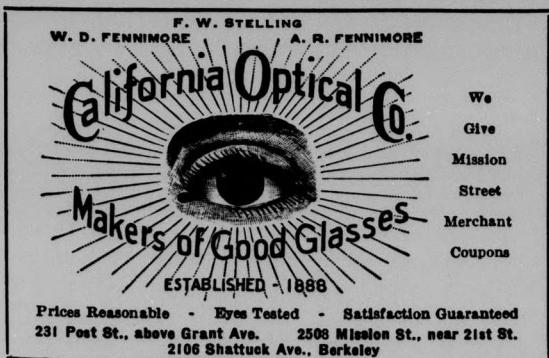
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LABOR CLARION

Published Weekly by the S. F. Labor Council
Telephone MArket 0056
Office, S. F. Labor Temple, 2940 Sixteenth Street
CHAS. A. DERRY
Editor and Manager



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Change of address or additions to union mail lists must come through the secretary of each organization. Members are notified that this is obligatory.

Entered as second-class matter August 10, 1918, at the postoffice at San Francisco, California, under the act of March 3, 1879.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 1936

Unemployment Insurance Law

Much anxiety is being displayed on the part of both employers and employees in California as to the provisions and interpretations of the state unemployment insurance act, which went into effect on January 1 last.

It is understood that the commission to administer the state act, which was named by Governor Merriam, is engaged in the task of formulating rules and regulations, and no doubt these will be made public in due time. As the benefit provisions do not take effect for two years, plenty of time is provided for study and clarification of the act.

In the meantime there is a concise statement as to the provisions of the act itself on the first page of this week's issue of the Labor Clarion, which should be read by all workers. Other information on the subject will be printed from time to time as it develops.

A communication from the federal Social Security Board, dated January 17, gives some valuable information on the operation of the federal act, as follows:

"In response to inquiries concerning the distribution by certain employers of questionnaires calling for personal information from employees, alleged to be necessary under the Social Security Act, John G. Winant, chairman of the Social Security Board, has issued the following statement:

"There have come to the attention of the board questionnaires circulated among employees by certain employers, calling for numerous (in one case thirty-two) items of personal information, which is either alleged to be required by, or creates the impression of being required by the Social Security Act.

"The Social Security Board has not asked employers for any information concerning individual employees.

"The Social Security Act promotes the welfare of workers in two direct ways—(1) it provides for the payment of old-age benefits, beginning in 1942, to workers 65 years and over, who have received wages of \$2000 or more during their working period beginning January 1, 1937; and (2) it removes an obstacle to the enactment of state unemployment compensation laws, under which workers are paid benefits during periods of unemployment.

"The act does not create a national unemployment compensational system. It (1) levies a tax upon employers of eight or more persons in twenty different weeks; and (2) permits such employers to credit against that tax amounts which they are required to pay under state unemployment compensation laws which the Social Security Board finds meet certain minimum standards. From the workers' point of view, one of the most important of such standards is that in Section 903 (a) (5), which requires that before the Social Security

Board may approve a state unemployment compensation law that law must provide that under it no unemployment compensation will be denied to an otherwise eligible unemployed person because he has refused to accept new work:

"(1) That is offered him because of a vacancy directly due to a strike, lockout or other labor dispute; (2) for which the wages, hours or other conditions of work are substantially less favorable than those prevailing for similar work in the locality, or (3) in which, as a condition of being employed, the worker would be required to join a company union or to resign from or refrain from joining any bona fide labor organization."

Child Labor Amendment

The 1935 convention of the American Federation of Labor expressed the well-grounded fear that interstate compacts to regulate minimum wages for women and minors may work against the adoption of the child labor amendment to the federal Constitution and approved the warning of the executive council of the Federation that organized labor should scrutinize the child labor provisions of the compacts very carefully before indorsing them.

"Representatives of a number of states," the council said, "have held conferences and have sought to establish compacts providing for uniform, standard conditions of employment, particularly with regard to minimum wages for women and minors. While certain portions of these plans can be approved and supported, there is one phase of the question which must be given most careful consideration and which is classified as child labor legislation.

"Since 1924 the American Federation of Labor has urged the ratification of the amendment to the Constitution of the United States delegating to Congress power to limit, regulate and prohibit the employment of children in mines, mills and factories.

"If state compacts make provisions governing the labor of children there is danger that such action might furnish states which have not yet ratified the amendment with an excuse that no such action was necessary because of the provisions contained in said compacts.

"Six New England states and Pennsylvania have such compacts. When two of these states have agreed to certain legislation and it is approved by Congress it becomes the law in other states.

"Massachusetts and New Hampshire have adopted a minimum wage law. It provides that no employer can pay a woman or a minor under 21 years of age an unfair or oppressive wage. When Congress consents to the action of these two states then the minimum law becomes effective in the other four states.

"The consent of Congress is required by reason of Section 10 of Article 1 of the Constitution of the United States, which provides: 'No State shall, without the consent of Congress . . . enter into any agreement or compact with another state.'

"Uniformity in child labor legislation can be secured through an act of Congress after ratification of the child labor amendment by the required number of states. Our primary purpose is to secure the adoption of the child labor amendment.

"The executive council, therefore, warns state federations of labor to exercise the highest degree of care in approving compacts containing provisions governing child labor."

Professor Emory S. Bogardus, Ph.D., credits Moses with being the founder of the labor movement because, inflamed by a sense of social injustice, he killed an Egyptian "boss" whom he saw beating a Hebrew workman.

A Wise Ruling

Employers who have been trying to chisel wages by propaganda designed to compel W.P.A. workers to accept private jobs at wage rates lower than the already too low W.P.A. subsistence wages have been given what is hoped will be a permanent knockout in the decision by Harry L. Hopkins, Works Progress administrator, that persons working on W.P.A. projects need not accept private employment at starvation wages.

The question received publicity in a statement by Major Wilfred E. Boughton, head of the W.P.A. Industrial Employment Bureau in New York City, that he encountered much difficulty in inducing W.P.A. workers and home relief cases to accept private employment because in many instances wages offered by private employers are lower than the payment for work relief.

Hopkins met this chiseling scheme with the plain ruling that state and local administrators need not order men off the W.P.A. rolls unless the private employment offered provides full-time jobs at a "standard or going rate of wages" and do not conflict with the established "union relationships."

This edict hits the nail squarely on the head. The W.P.A. relief worker cannot be compelled to take work in a unionized trade at wages below the union scale for that trade. He cannot be compelled to accept a job at less than the prevailing wage rate. He cannot be compelled to accept a job at sweatshop wages. He cannot be compelled to take a job as a strikebreaker.

In short, the W.P.A. worker has won a measure of liberty. Of course it isn't the liberty which the barnstormers of the American Liberty League advocate. But it is the liberty to reject a form of private economic servitude.

According to the daily press the Hospital and Institutional Workers' Union has adopted resolutions and forwarded them to Health Director Geiger denouncing a publication known as the "Hospital Workers' X-Ray." It is declared to be of communistic origin, and Dr. Geiger has requested the Police Department to investigate it. As usual in publications of this nature, the names of those responsible for it, and its source, are a deep secret.

The death of James H. Coulsting removes a pillar of strength from the labor movement of San Francisco. A man of the strictest integrity, imbued with the true spirit of trade unionism, and willing and anxious to do his utmost to further labor's interests, the passing of "Jim" Coulsting will create a void which can not be easily filled. In expressing sympathy to the bereaved family the Labor Clarion believes that it voices the sentiments of every union and union member in the city.

According to news dispatches this week, the steel industry's labor espionage bureau, maintained for many years by the Carnegie Steel Company, has been abolished, Arthur H. Young, vice-president of the United States Steel Corporation, in charge of personnel, announced. The spy bureau has been "cleaned out" by order of B. F. Fairless, new president of the Carnegie Company, which last month became the Carnegie-Illinois Steel Corporation. Such a move, had it been inaugurated half a century sooner, would have saved many lives and much disturbance in an industry which has considered itself as superior to federal and state authority.

ECONOMIC PREJUDICES

Four-to-five decisions of the United States Supreme Court nullifying legislation which benefits the people are one of the perplexing problems crying for solution. The decisions have all the earmarks of economic prejudices rather than conclusions based on law.—Senator Benson of Minnesota.

How to Grow High Wages

By N. D. ALPER

Beginning Taxation

(Which? Tax Labor? Or, Tax Our Land Values?)

The following remarkable statement on taxation was made in a book, "The Theory of Human Progression," in 1850, by Patrick Edward Dove, a Scotch nobleman and landowner.

"Let it be observed that labor is essentially private property. It has a value, and the land has no more than a value.

"Let it also be observed that the land is not essentially private property, and that naturally one man has as much right to land as another.

"Labor on the one hand, and land on the other, are susceptible of taxation.

"The privileged classes, in the earlier stages of society, had all the land and all the labor. The lord was the lord not only of the land, but of the labor of those who were engaged in the useful arts of industry. In the course of time the serfs obtained a small portion of their rights, and towns were formed where the citizens could carry on their labor with a certain degree of advantage to themselves, and with a certain degree of emancipation from the licentious will of the lord. Taxation could consequently be on the land of the lord, or on the labor of the townsman, for all the townsman's capital was originally the produce of his labor.

"Let it be observed that when the land is taxed no man is taxed; for the land produces, according to the law of the Creator, more than the value of the labor expended on it, and on this account men are willing to pay a rent for land. But when the privileged classes had monopolized the land they called it theirs in the same sense in which labor is supposed to belong to the laborer; and, although the absurdity of the proposition is sufficiently apparent, the laborer was glad enough to escape with even a small portion of his liberty, and to rejoice that he could call his life and his family his own.

"But then the lords of the land were the rulers and the makers of the laws, and the imposers of taxation. [In California they gave us the Riley-Stewart act and the sales tax.] And it was not reasonable to suppose that they should tax the land. The king required money, and various persons about kings in all ages require money, and of course the only choice in the matter of taxation is between labor and land.

"To tax labor, then, became a matter of the most palpable necessity, and those who have been divested of almost every single particle of earth or sea that could be of any benefit to them must also be made to bear the burden of the state, and to pay for the support of a government that was of little use to the community, and that only existed by the right of the strongest or the consent of superstition.

"The principle of taxing labor is only a remnant of the serfdom of the darker ages, and it has been continued in this country by the ingenious device of what are termed indirect taxes, by which labor is taxed, although the laborer is only made acquainted with the fact by the distress that periodically oppresses him.

"The man who is poisoned without his knowledge does not die the less certainly for his ignorance, and the people who are taxed do not suffer the less because the taxes [painless taxes in California] happen to be imposed in such a manner that the unthinking and the ignorant do not perceive those taxes in the price they pay for almost every article of consumption. All the real harm is done to a country as effectually by indirect taxation, as if every penny were paid out of the day's wages to the tax-gatherer of the state. . . . And the indirect system is employed, not that it pre-

vents the community from suffering, but that it prevents the community from dwelling on the cause of their suffering, and thereby retards a revolution against the privileged classes."

So wrote a man eighty-six years ago, who, while of the privileged class of that day, loved truth more than class. What he wrote states clearly and well the basic tax problem of California and America today. Truth only is eternal. While titles are not stylish in America as yet; while we call taxes by names new in history; yet the land barons continue to rob the people of their produce; they continue to rob both labor and capital.

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Next week: How Government Diverts Wealth

McGUFFEY'S READERS

H. C. Minnich, curator of McGuffey Memorial Museum, Oxford, Ohio, in commenting upon the famous McGuffey readers, states that more than 122,000,000 McGuffey books have been sold. The name of William McGuffey has appeared on more books in the United States than any other name. With the single exception of the Bible, McGuffey's books set an all-time record for book sales in the United States.

Referring to the social teachings of McGuffey, Minnich states that it is acknowledged by the testimonies of men and women of every social level and of every occupation and profession, whose early education came under the influence of the McGuffey readers, that the social teachings of these books were major controls throughout a lifetime. Historians and sociologists have acknowledged their great influence in shaping the character of the civilization of the Middle West.

The long lists of men distinguished in politics, jurisprudence, invention, literature, industry, and public education, who sprang from the common schools in which the McGuffey readers were almost universally used bear evidence of the lasting impressions of the lessons of these readers—*"Sierra Educational News."*

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION

An increase of approximately 175 per cent in the number of American farms electrified during 1935, compared with the previous year, is announced by Morris L. Cooke, administrator of rural electrification. Estimates point to a new peak in rural electrification activity in 1936, Cooke said.

MISSOURI MAKES A START

Colonel Allen M. Thompson, Missouri's state old-age assistance commissioner, has placed 4000 names on the Missouri old-age pension rolls for immediate payment. Average monthly payments will range from \$7 to \$12, with payments beginning the first month following the date the applicant filed.

Pan-American Conference

According to press dispatches from Santiago, Chile, the steering committee of the Pan-American Labor Conference has withdrawn the resolution submitted by the Uruguayan government delegate authorizing the establishment of a Pan-American Labor Institute, which was proposed at the seventh Pan-American Conference at Montevideo. It was feared the proposal would tend to disturb the universality of the International Labor Organization of the League of Nations.

As a substitute for the labor institute plan the committee sponsored a resolution submitted by the Cuban government delegate providing for a number of measures designed to bring about larger participation of the governments of North, Central and South America in the work of the International Labor Organization.

Conservation of Land

Editor's Note—The old frontiers are gone. There are no longer vast areas of new land on which a growing nation can settle and expand. It is now up to us to conserve and develop wisely the land which we have. How this can be done is described by L. C. Gray, Assistant Administrator of the Federal Resettlement Administration, an authority on land use, in a series of three articles of which this is the second.

By L. C. GRAY

Assistant Administrator Resettlement
Administration

Less than a century ago there were hundreds of thousands of acres of good land in the public domain available to citizens who wanted to stake out a homestead and start life anew. Today there is practically no good free land left for American families to settle.

It is probable, however, that in the future we shall as a nation require more land under cultivation than we now have. This will be necessary to take care of a growing population.

Moreover, whenever there is a shortage of industrial employment, people naturally go back to the land for their living. This happened during the early years of the depression. Hundreds of thousands of people moved from the cities out to the farms.

Under existing conditions people could no longer be fairly sure of obtaining tracts of good land. The cheap land which they were able to get was in many cases too poor to support them. Often these families, which had sought an opportunity to take care of themselves, in the end became burdens upon the relief rolls of small rural communities.

Wise forethought and action by the government can prevent this wastage of human effort by lending a guiding hand to the settlement of new lands. Unless some such guidance is offered we run the danger of having a large increase in the number of poor families, living on land that can not be successfully cultivated, and becoming burdens upon the rest of the community.

Today we possess a far more adequate knowledge of what land is good for than did people of a generation ago. Scientists have made new discoveries about soil classification. Experience with most of the types of land in the United States has reduced the need for guesswork.

In the present program of land use and resettlement the federal government is helping families move from poor land to better farms, where they may become self-supporting. Unproductive farmland is being converted to other uses, such as forestry, grazing or recreation, for which it is suited.

As our need for increased agricultural land expands in the future, it will be more and more necessary for the governments of both states and nation to determine where good land is available, and to help prevent settlement in areas where families will become public charges because of the poverty of the land.

COST OF WORLD WAR

The cost of the world war, according to estimates made recently by the National Council for Prevention of War, was \$337,846,189,657. America's share of that cost amounted to \$41,765,000,000. The total cost of the war could have provided \$2500 cottages on five-acre plots of land costing \$100 an acre for every family in Great Britain, America, Canada, Germany, France, Belgium and Russia. With what the United States spent in half a year during the war an automobile and a tractor could be bought for every one of our 6,500,000 farms, with \$600,000,000 left for good roads.

Wagner Act Not Tied To Decisions on A.A.A.

By CHARLTON OGBURN
General Counsel, American Federation of Labor

Our contention that the prohibition in the National Labor Relations Act against employers interfering with the organization of employees is a proper exercise by Congress of its power to regulate commerce among the states is based (1) on our showing that the activities of the large manufacturing industries, such as steel, automobile, textile, rubber, etc., affect interstate commerce, and (2) upon the decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States holding that such activities affecting interstate commerce are subject to the regulation of commerce, such as the decisions upholding the packers and stockyards act, which regulates, among other things, exchanges of commission merchants and packers for handling cattle, etc., transactions purely intrastate, regulations of stockyards and grain exchanges as a proper exercise of congressional power under the commerce clause, and holding that bidding or refusing to bid in the stockyards of Chicago affects interstate commerce, and decisions that interference with manufacturing operations affect interstate commerce.

The decisions of the Supreme Court holding the A.A.A. and the amended A.A.A. unconstitutional do not bear upon the power of Congress under the commerce clause. The government in the A.A.A. cases sought to uphold the constitutionality of these laws on the welfare clause and not under the commerce clause, and so really the A.A.A. decisions have no bearing on the constitutionality of the National Labor Relations Act.

The Supreme Court has done to the farmers what it did last May 27 in the Schechter case to 7-a. Whatever their merits or the logic may be, the result of these decisions should insure closer co-operation by farmers and industrial workers to achieve the objective common to both.

Smoke Union-Made Cigarettes And Help the Tobacco Workers

The "big four" tobacco companies are making increased profits while a large and apparently increasing percentage of their workers are drawing relief because they can not live on the starvation wages paid by the tobacco monopoly.

The Tobacco Workers' International Union has exerted every ounce of its strength to bring about a reduction in the tax on 10-cent cigarettes, both

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in order to save the 10-cent cigarette and to maintain what competition there is in the tobacco industry. All friends of labor are urged to get behind the efforts of the Tobacco Workers' Union and help them in their fight against one of the most arrogant industrial combinations in the country. You can help by writing your congressmen and senators, asking them to support this legislation.

Governor Curley Backs Official Who Is Fighting A. F. of L. Union

Governor James M. Curley of Massachusetts, who threatened to dismiss Frank A. Goodwin, state motor vehicle registrar, if the latter did not discontinue his connection with a shoe workers' union opposing A. F. of L. affiliation, has changed his attitude, and now says Goodwin can hold the two jobs. A. F. of L. union leaders had complained to Curley that Goodwin should not be allowed to meddle in union organization leadership while holding the state position, the latter paying \$9000 annually.

Curley had announced he would fire Goodwin from the state office if he did not quit his union leadership, but three days later shifted his stand and declared Goodwin would not be interfered with.

Goodwin entered shoe workers' organization work in opposition to the A. F. of L. about two years ago, and until several months ago had concentrated on the Brockton, Mass., zone. The governor now claims Goodwin has achieved excellent results in eliminating discord between the workers and employers in the Brockton area, and that it would be unwise to interfere with him in any way, with the result that Goodwin continues in the high-salaried state job, as well as leading the campaign against the A. F. of L., from the shoe trades angle.

President Tobin of Teamsters Appointed to Honorary Position

President Roosevelt has appointed Daniel J. Tobin, president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Stablemen and Helpers of America, a member of the United States Constitution Sesquicentennial Commission, which Congress authorized to make arrangements for appropriate observance of the 150th anniversary of the adoption of the federal Constitution.

The other members of the commission named by Mr. Roosevelt are: Charles A. Beard of Connecticut; Max Ferrand, California; C. O'Connor Goolrick, Virginia, and William Birth, Missouri.

Vice-President Garner and Speaker Byrns of the House of Representatives have also been appointed members of the commission, of which Representative Sol Bloom of New York is director general.

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Visit to Coit Tower For Trade Unionists

Members of trade unions are invited to meet at the Coit Tower Saturday afternoon, January 25, at 2 o'clock, for a discussion of the frescoes by Doctor Grace L. McCann Morley, curator of the San Francisco Museum of Art.

This is the first and introductory talk in a series stressing aspects of art of particular interest to this group. All members are most cordially invited to attend this and the six meetings that will follow.

Fresco is an ancient method of wall decoration that has recently been much used and developed by California artists. These painters find in the process a very satisfying expression, because they work closely with the architect and engineers who carry on the construction with a definite place for their decoration planned for and provided so that it becomes an integral part of the building itself.

A course of six lectures on the part played by labor in art, with special attention to labor's contribution to the art of today, is announced by the San Francisco Museum of Art. A special rate of \$1 each for a group of twenty-five or more persons has been made.

At the introductory meeting at the Coit Tower on Saturday the class will be organized for Monday evenings at 7 o'clock, beginning Monday, January 27.

Among the first unions to take advantage of this opportunity to give their members the advantage of these lectures is the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. The educational department of the union is organizing a group to attend the meeting at the Tower on January 25, to be followed by registration for the class.

FIVE-DAY WEEK ON BRIDGE ROAD

Those interested in obtaining prevailing wage scales on the construction of the Sausalito lateral road to the Golden Gate bridge have won a victory, on recommendation of the conciliation committee of the board of directors of the bridge district, of which John P. McLaughlin, veteran union official, is a member. The five-day week will be observed on the job, with two six-hour shifts. Rates will range from \$6.50 for truck drivers on vehicles handling under five yards, to \$10 for steam shovel operators.

DEATHS IN UNION RANKS

Among recent deaths of members of local unions were the following: Gustav Anderson, member of Longshoremen's Union No. 38-79; Arthur Price, Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union No. 24; Mary Alice Flaherty, Garment Workers' Union No. 131; Gaetano Basile, Musicians' Union No. 6; Joseph W. Miller, Bottle Workers' Union No. 293; Hans Christian Olesen, Carmen's Union.

The anti-union employer and the anti-union communists are partners in the nefarious attempts which are being made to undermine trade unionism. They work toward the same end.

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1936 Business Outlook

From A. F. of L. Monthly Survey.

The close of 1935 finds American business farther on the road to recovery than at any time since depression began. Not only has business as a whole regained more than half its depression decline; the general feeling of confidence and optimism has been greatly strengthened during the year, and although industry is not yet ready to go forward without government support, business men are more willing to invest in the future than they were a year ago. Progress has been marked by a 14 per cent increase in production in 1935 over 1934, a 14 per cent increase in building construction, which includes the building of more than twice as many homes as in 1934, a national income increased by about 5 per cent and for farmers a 12 per cent increase in income.

Unquestionably labor has gained during the past year. But by the end of the year it was clear that labor's gains were not keeping pace with those of industry. By November, 1935, although industry had recovered more than half its depression loss, only 29 per cent of the depression unemployed had found work. At the end of November the "Annalist" business index stood at 91, which was more than half way up from the depression low point of 59 to the 1929 peak of 117. The Federation estimate of unemployment, however, showed in November 11,672,000 persons still without work in industry, agriculture, transportation or service; that is 71 per cent of the depression unemployed.

Thus 1935 was a year of progress for business at the expense of workers. At the end of 1935 we were farther from reaching a balance between production and buying power than at the beginning. In this respect 1935 is in strong contrast to 1934, for in 1934 the balance was kept between production and buying power. Unless the unbalance of this year's progress can be corrected we can not hope for sustained recovery or sustained employment for the millions seeking work.

Business observers are unanimous in expecting 1936 to be a better year than 1935. Industry will be in a better position to increase wages. In general, production is expected to increase about 10 per cent above last year's level, but industry is not planning to create work for all the unemployed. Unquestionably Supreme Court decisions on the Wagner Labor Disputes Act, the Guffey Coal Act and the Social Security Act will be vital to our future progress. Establishing labor's right to organize and safeguarding workers' income are basic steps in our progress toward economic balance.

Labor's Gains Set New Record, Declares Miss Frances Perkins

American wage earners made greater gains under the Roosevelt administration than in any other similar period in history, Secretary Perkins told the International Seamen's Union convention in Washington.

Increased employment and payrolls, shorter hours, representation on various governmental agencies, greater opportunities for collective bargaining and efforts aimed at abolishing child labor were among the gains she cited. She listed the Social Security Act and the National Labor Relations Board as two particularly bright spots in the "new deal's" labor picture.

Employment, payrolls, production, farm income, profits and dividends have shown a rising curve since March, 1933, while confidence has been restored and substantial progress has been made in the war on the depression, she added.

"Under President Roosevelt's inspiring leadership," Miss Perkins said, "and with a spirit of unity and action continuing among wage earners,

farmers, employers and consumers, we should be able to consolidate the considerable progress already made and move forward to rout the forces which have brought want, despair and misery into so many homes and affected so many of our people."

DANGER OF TEXTILE STRIKE

If the proposed national textile act for regulation of the textile industry should fail of passage in Congress "conditions will demand another national strike," Francis J. Gorman, first vice-president of the United Textile Workers of America, warned in Washington on his return from a Southern trip.

WRIT AGAINST N.L.R.B. DENIED

United States District Judge John Knight of the Western district of New York has dismissed a request for an injunction by which the Jamestown Veneer and Plywood Corporation sought to prevent a hearing on a National Labor Relations Board complaint, the N.L.R.B. has been advised.

Mooney Meeting

Announcement is made by John A. O'Connell, secretary of the San Francisco Labor Council, that by reason of the postponement of the Mooney case, now pending before the state Supreme Court, the attorneys of record in the case, who are now in the East, will not return to this city in time to attend the delegate meeting heretofore announced for Sunday evening, January 26.

Accordingly the special committee which arranged for the meeting has given notice that the delegate meeting has been postponed, and will be held instead on Sunday evening, February 9, 1936, at 8 o'clock, in the San Francisco Labor Temple, Sixteenth and Capp streets.

Credentials of five delegates from each union heretofore sent in to the Council will be good for the postponed meeting, and no new credentials need be sent in for them. However, only credentials for five delegates from each affiliated union will be recognized.

President's Birthday

Clubs and fraternal organizations are to be asked this week and next week to aid in publicizing San Francisco's third annual President's Birthday Ball, to be held at the Civic Auditorium Thursday night, January 30.

Every civic organization is being asked to especially announce the ball and to acquaint its membership with the fact that this is San Francisco's only benefit for the study, prevention and relief of infantile paralysis.

Some twelve or fifteen band leaders will hold a luncheon meeting at the St. Francis Hotel this week to plan their music for the big ball.

The decorations committee will meet this week to determine final details of the decorations of the auditorium.

Tickets for the ball are now on sale at the headquarters of the ball committee, 309 St. Francis Hotel, and at the Tom C. Girton box office, the Emporium.

The San Francisco Labor Council at its last meeting made a contribution of cash to the fund to be raised for the fight against infantile paralysis, as its part in the local celebration of the President's Birthday Ball.

Reports from the Eastern headquarters of the Labor Committee for the President's Birthday Ball are to the effect that hundreds of cities throughout the nation are preparing for the event with elaborate programs, and that organized labor is in the forefront of the arrangements committees.

Seventy per cent of the proceeds of these celebrations are to be used locally in the fight against the plague of infantile paralysis, and 30 per cent goes to President Roosevelt to be used for the benefit of the Warm Springs Foundation and other agencies in the crusade, as the President may direct.

Indications are that the San Francisco celebration will even exceed in interest the former two celebrations of the President's Birthday.

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SAN FRANCISCO'S BIG VALUES IN UNION MADE WORK CLOTHES

Run o' the Hook

(This department is conducted by the president of San Francisco Typographical Union No. 21)

The January session of Typographical Union No. 21 was called to order at 1:05 p. m. last Sunday with all officers present except two members of the executive committee. . . . The membership statement showed a gain of six during the fiscal month ended January 18, the enrollment of that date being 1497. . . . The detailed monthly financial statement of the secretary-treasurer was presented, as was also the auditing committee's report of approval thereon. . . . The one application for membership—that of T. A. Brown—was given its initial reading and referred to committee. . . . The eleven apprentices who participated or were called to participate in the January examination were reported on by the apprentice committee, all of the recommendations of which were concurred in by the union. . . . R. V. McDill, son of George McDill of Oakland Typographical Union, was obligated as an apprentice member and given a good hand following his introduction to those assembled. . . . William F. Fee, A. J. Giacchetto and Avis Rerat were admitted to the union as journeymen members. . . . Recommendations in the report of the special committee looking to the conservation of time in the conduct of the meetings of the union were concurred in. Adoption of these recommendations will necessitate revision of certain of the union's laws. The executive committee was instructed to draft amendments to meet new conditions created by adoption of the special committee's report. . . . The executive committee reported that the Pacific Label Company, 1150 Folsom street, had wavered, wobbled and finally toppled to the non-union side of the labor world, and at high Christmas tide, too, when every other employer of union book and job printers in the city was happy over and properly celebrating even slightly improved conditions and in high spirits in anticipation of better times that apparently are about to arrive, if they are not already here. That the error of its decision will be made visible to the management of Pacific Label is more than patent. As the company has been operating on a union basis many years, it probably will learn it is exploring territory that is more or less strange and filled with unexpected vicissitudes, as has been the experience of others who have made similar mistakes. . . . On recommendation, issuance of honorable withdrawal cards to Charles F. Miller and H. F. Le Tissier was authorized. . . . Decisions of the executive council of the International Typographical Union on two appeals emanating from San Francisco Union were presented to the union in summarized form. . . . The application of the Borden Printing Company for permission to use the union label of the Allied Printing Trades Council was approved, as were the petitions of Dettner's Printing House and the University of San Francisco Press. . . . A substantial appropriation was voted to the city's principal charity and social welfare agency. . . . The union voted in the negative on a proposition from the Newspaper Publishers' Association, representatives of which the scale committee was scheduled to confer with again last

Wednesday. While the terms of the latest proposal of the publishers were somewhat more liberal than those in their original proposal, they were not sufficiently attractive to warrant acceptance by the union. . . . In support of a resolution adopted by the 1935 convention of the California State Federation of Labor, the president appointed each member of the union as a committee to see to it that all members are properly registered for the all important elections of 1936. All old registrations expired January 1, 1936, and all must register to qualify as voters this year. The same committee was charged with the duty of working for the success of the initiative known as the Ralston Sales Tax Repeal Amendment, which has qualified and will be on the ballot in the general election next November. . . . The officers of the union were instructed to address the representatives of the Fourth and Fifth California Congressional Districts, urging their support of the Walsh bill (S. 3055), a measure designed to establish and maintain fair wages on purchases, loans or grants where federal funds are involved directly or indirectly. Instruction of the union's officers to thus write does not debar any other member of the union from doing likewise. As this measure is one most vital to labor, your co-operation is earnestly solicited. If you are a resident of other than the Fourth or Fifth Congressional District, the importance to you of the Walsh bill should be impressed upon the representative of that district and his support of the bill urgently requested. . . . Charles Crawford, Robert J. Donovan, J. J. Hebbner, Henry Heidelberg and Robert W. Waterson were appointed as delegates to represent the union at a meeting in the auditorium of the Labor Temple at 8 p. m. Sunday, February 9, when the Hon. Frank P. Walsh, John F. Finerty and George T. Davis will discuss the status of Thomas J. Mooney's application for a writ of habeas corpus. . . . One application for the old age pension was approved. . . . Following animated discussion of two subjects under the order of "Good and Welfare of the Union," adjournment of the meeting was taken at 4:20 p. m.

The sincere sympathy of his many friends is being extended to Fred E. Ross, whose mother died at Smith Center, Kan., recently at the age of 72 years. Mr. Ross is a member of Oakland Typographical Union. He formerly was affiliated with San Francisco Union, on whose executive committee he served a number of terms. Mrs. Ross was the mother of two daughters and two sons.

John F. Patterson of Oakland Typographical Union was elected president of the California Conference of Typographical Unions at its quarterly meeting, held in Fresno recently. Mr. Patterson, a veteran linotype operator, is one of the composing room staff of the Oakland "Post-Enquirer," where he has been employed a number of years. Other officers elected at the Fresno meeting of the conference are: Harry Malloy, Stockton, vice-president; C. R. ("Bob") Switzer, Sacramento, secretary; Herbert Thompson of Palo Alto, Jack Sullivan of Fresno and R. E. Huber of San Jose, board of directors.

The two hundred and thirtieth anniversary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin, great statesman and revered patron saint of American printers, was fittingly observed at a dinner and entertainment given by the Printers' Board of Trade at the Commercial Club last Tuesday night. Arrived at their respective tables, the board members and their guests joined in singing the "Star Spangled Banner," with Shirley Karen, soprano, leading. The Parisian Quintet, directed by Eva Garcia, pro-

vided excellent music throughout the dinner hour. Featured on the entertainment program were Caro and his vibraphone; Howard Milholland, raconteur; Grace Adams East, trumpeter, and Shirley Karen, soprano. Speakers of the evening were Louis Sloss, president of the Printers' Board of Trade; Mayor Angelo J. Rossi; O. H. Fischer, president of the California Manufacturers' Association; Frederick J. Koster, director of the State Chamber of Commerce, and Dr. Paul F. Cadman, associate professor of economics of the University of California, who delivered the principal address, taking as his subject "Souvenirs of Franklin in France." Dr. Cadman's recital of Franklin's history-making nine years' residence and work in France held the closest attention of the 300 persons who heard him. His talk was illustrated by twenty or more rare and valuable pictures. The dinner and entertainment were arranged by a committee headed by L. A. Ireland, secretary of the Printers' Board of Trade.

Richard W. Bahls of Althof & Bahls, one of the oldest established printing firms in San Francisco, succumbed to a sudden heart attack last Monday morning. A native of California and about 65 years old, Mr. Bahls was the husband of Ethel G. Bahls and father of Richard W., Jr., and Patty Bahls, and brother of H. H. Bahls. Following services last Wednesday, the body of Mr. Bahls was entombed in the family vault at Mountain View Cemetery, Oakland. Recognized as a most considerate employer, Mr. Bahls' death will be mourned by a vast number of members of the Typographical Union who have been in his employ at various times during his career as a printer.

Those members of the union interested in the educational plan sponsored by some of their fellow affiliates are requested to report at union headquarters, 16 First street, on Tuesday, January 28, at 2 p. m., when the first class in public speaking and parliamentary practice will be organized. An effort will be made to institute a class in English at 2 p. m. on the following day, Wednesday, January 29, at union headquarters. The success of this educational plan will depend almost entirely upon the interest taken in it by members of the union and registered apprentices in any degree of their apprenticeship. A minimum of ten students is required for the organizing of the classes, which will be open to all identified with the union. Instructors in the above mentioned subjects will be provided by the state. Enrollment in the classes will cost nothing.

Freda Leiser, beloved mother of John Leiser of the Pernau-Walsh chapel, passed away in this city January 21. Besides her son, John, Mrs. Leiser, a native of Germany, leaves her husband, Fred Leiser, and two daughters, Elizabeth Leiser Ernst and Kathryn Leiser, to mourn her passing. The funeral services were private. The sympathy of their legion of friends in the printing industry is extended to the bereaved family.

"Chronicle" Chapel Notes—By C. C.

At Sunday's union meeting it was announced that Mr. J. A. W. McDermott and Mr. E. E. Porter of this chapel have taken steps to establish classes in public speaking, parliamentary procedure, English, etc., for members of the local union. The formation of these classes will be announced soon. It is the hope of these gentlemen that all members will avail themselves of this opportunity, and may we personally add that it is our wish that all success possible come the way of those responsible for this movement.

Joe Flaherty, popular apprentice who has been on the day side in the ad alley, has been returned to the night side.

A couple of the boys of this chapel seem to be members of the local art colony. As one of the keepers of the royal elephant, Lester Reynard graced the Cambodian Ball of last week clad in appropriate costume. Also in attendance was Office

PROGRESSIVE CLUB MEETING

Labor Temple, 16th and Capp Streets

All Members of the Typographical Union Invited

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Boy Frank DeJarnatt, as, we presume, a slave boy, a position he filled in an excellent manner, for he gets lots of practice around the office.

A piece of new printing equipment made its appearance in the room last week, and we hear that more is to come. It is also rumored that several changes will be made in the layout of the ad room.

Elected to the chapel secretaryship was Henry C. Miner. Harry, as he is known to all, has the best wishes of all in his new position. He is also president of the "Chronicle" Mutual Benefit Society.

A visit to a dentist's office last Friday relieved R. M. Dollar of one tooth, much pain and some spare change.

A. M. Gross tendered his resignation as foreman of the composing room Tuesday, January 21.

Call-Bulletins—By "Hoot"

L. E. Ludes, one of the operators, was called to Kansas by the serious illness of his brother and sister. They live ninety miles from each other, but were both stricken at the same time.

Vic McCarthy, one of our makeups, tried out on one of the local amateur programs recently. Mac has kept the news of his being a manipulator of the ivories and the possessor of a fine voice a secret. We hear he is to appear on another program soon.

One day last week a thick cloud of smoke was visible in the composing room. One of the boys had passed the cigars, but whether he was going to get married or there was a birth in the family or something else he refused to state. However, the boys did not ask any questions, but smoked up.

Having visited the Home at Colorado Springs, it was a treat to have such a fine souvenir of that institution given us.

Mailer Notes

By LEROY C. SMITH

The regular monthly meeting of No. 18 was held January 19, with a good attendance. Discussions and arguments pro and con filled a good part of the afternoon and some good points were brought out. The secretary of the scale committee, Harold I. Christie, had a lengthy and instructive report dealing with efforts of the scale committee. Several months' negotiations with newspaper publishers, in which many meetings were held, had resulted in a deadlock. The recommendation of the scale committee that they be invested with power to proceed to arbitration of the scale was unanimously concurred in.

In compliance with the request of the Labor Council, President Del Carlo appointed Joseph Stocker, C. J. Ross, F. Finnegan, W. Schrath and W. Johns as five accredited delegates to the mass meeting to be held in the Labor Temple Auditorium February 8, at which time defenders of Thomas J. Mooney are to speak on his case.

Benjamin Krupp was given the obligation as a journeyman member. Frank C. Lee, who has been confined to the tubercular ward of the San Francisco Hospital the last three months, was reported improved in health, having gained several pounds in weight.

Fred L. Stele, of Birmingham, Ala., Mailers' Union, deposited an I. T. U. traveler.

An increase in dues to the Allied Printing Trades Council for the purpose of placing Secretary and Business Representative Harold I. Christie on a full-time basis—five days per week instead of part time for the Allied Council—was voted unanimously.

At the January meeting of Topeka, Kans., Mailers' Union it was voted to hold in abeyance the proposition to vote upon the question of "deleting the words Mailers' Trade District Union" from its constitution and by-laws. As this is the second postponement given the proposition, it would appear the proposition is a "hot" question, in which

the members of that union find themselves in the predicament similar to that of the fellow who caught hold of the bear by the tail.

No advices are at hand as to whether or not the M. T. D. U. officers have complied with the actions of their Montreal convention in sending certain propositions passed by that convention to the referendum. It may be those officers are "complying" with in the manner of their "compliance" with the Chicago convention proposition being sent to a referendum. In the latter instance they had their "lieutenants" canvass the unions, and finding the proposition would meet defeat, withheld it, or "pigeonholed" it. The Chicago proposition requested an increase from 25 to 50 cents in monthly dues.

Otto Lepp of Milwaukee, Wis., deputy county clerk, was a strong contender for the endorsement of the Democratic caucus as a mayoralty candidate. The Milwaukee "Sentinel" features Lepp as temporary chairman of the caucus, speaking into the "mike." J. J. Shinners, non-partisan candidate, received the endorsement—Shinners, 190; Lepp, 122. Lepp still holds a paid-up card in Milwaukee Mailers' Union.

Senator Frazier Introduces Bill Covering Insurance for Workers

The entire question of social insurance legislation in the United States has been reopened in the second session of the Seventy-fourth Congress by Senator Lynn J. Frazier of North Dakota, who introduced a new and comprehensive "Workers' Social Insurance Bill" on January 6.

Broader in scope than the administration's Social Security Act, enacted at the last session of Congress, the legislation introduced by Senator Frazier embodies several unprecedented provisions, including disability insurance, insurance for the self-employed such as farmers, professional workers, and owners of small businesses, as well as unemployment, old-age, maternity, widows' and mothers' insurance.

GOODYEAR VIOLATES AGREEMENT

The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company has violated its agreement to negotiate with its employees and is seeking unjustified lengthening of working hours and reductions in wages, the fact-finding board appointed by Secretary of Labor Perkins charges. Miss Perkins, who announced the board's findings, said it was of the opinion that the Goodyear management "did not fairly enter into negotiations with employees"; that it violated Section 1 of the agreement April 13, 1935, and that it had discriminated between A. F. of L. unions and the Goodyear Industrial Assembly, a company union. The board said it could find "no justification for the lengthening of hours per day by Goodyear." Neither could it see any reason for drastic reduction in piecework prices, although it "recognizes the necessity for readjustment."

Ladies' Garment Workers

By JENNIE MATYAS

"Is the Townsend Plan of Old-Age Pensions Feasible?" will be the subject of a debate held between Frank Rutherford, exponent of the plan, and Dr. Charles Hogan of the School for Social Studies on Saturday, January 25, at 11 a. m. at 149 Mason street, under the auspices of the Educational Department of the San Francisco Joint Board of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

The debate is one of a series of open forum meetings which the union holds every Saturday morning at 11 at its headquarters. Fellow trade unionists and their friends are invited to attend. Admission is free and the floor is open to questions and discussions.

On the same day, Saturday, January 25, at 2 p. m., the Educational Department of the San Francisco Joint Board will conduct a tour to the Coit Memorial Tower. Dr. Grace McCann Morley, curator of the San Francisco Museum of Art, will discuss the frescoes that are painted into the walls of the tower. The frescoes depict the typical life of San Francisco, organized and intensified by the artists' vision. They are a sort of document of our time. There has been much discussion about these frescoes, and the Ladies' Garment Workers' Union feels especially fortunate in having the good luck to have so distinguished and authoritative an artist and educator as Dr. Morley to lead the group in discussion of this much-disputed and interesting art.

Following the trip to Coit Tower there will be registration for a class in art, every Monday night, under the leadership of Dr. Morley. All trade unionists and their friends are invited.

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S. F. Labor Council

Labor Council meets every Friday at 8 p. m. at Labor Temple, Sixteenth and Capp streets. Secretary's office and headquarters, Room 205, Labor Temple. The Executive and Arbitration Committees meet every Monday at 7:30 p. m. Label Section meets first and third Wednesdays at 8 p. m. Headquarters phone, MArket 0056.

Synopsis of Minutes of Meeting Held January 17, 1936

Meeting called to order at 8:15 p. m. by President Edward D. Vandeleur.

Roll Call of Officers—All present.

Minutes of Previous Meeting—Approved as printed in Labor Clarion, with the correction that the bill referred to under the head of "requests complied with" is Senate Bill No. 3055, introduced by United States Senator Walsh, dealing with labor conditions in all public contracts let under federal authority.

Credentials—Auto Painters No. 1073, Gus Uhl and William Ammann; Bakery Wagon Drivers No. 484, Harry H. Blackfield, James J. Ward, Harold F. Murphy, John F. Shelley and George Kidwell; Bartenders No. 41, James Burke, James Ferguson, Thomas Nickola, James O'Connor, Dan Regan, Harry Smith, Wilson Wallier, Sam Wiesz, George Kelly and Ed Jarvis; Cleaners, Dyers and Pressers, William Van Ornum vice John B. Lee; Cooks No. 44, Emil G. Buehrer vice Otto Bruhn; Hospital and Institutional Workers, M. J. Rowan, Arthur Hare, Fred Peterson and Al Blumenthal; Ice Wagon Drivers, L. D. Snell and James D. Gardner; Plumbers No. 442, Louis Steindler; Upholsterers No. 28, S. S. King and M. L. Harris. Delegates seated.

Communications—Minutes of Building Trades Council. From the Ladies' Auxiliary of Miners of Jackson, extending thanks and appreciation to Council and all affiliated unions that contributed to the Christmas celebration for the children of the miners. Noted and filed.

Referred to the Secretary—Cleaners, Dyers and Pressers No. 17960, decreasing their delegation to the Council. Federal Administration of Public Works, relative to appropriation for reconstruction of Piers 9 and 19 on the waterfront, and promising to make money available if additional funds

WE DON'T PATRONIZE LIST

The concerns listed below are on the "We Don't Patronize List" of the San Francisco Labor Council. Members of Labor Unions and sympathizers are requested to cut this out and post it. California Building Maintenance Co., 20 Ninth. Clinton Cafeterias.

Co-Op Manufacturing Company.

Curtis Publishing Co., publishers of "Saturday Evening Post," "Ladies' Home Journal," "Country Gentleman."

Drake Cleaners, 249 O'Farrell and 727 Van Ness.

Foster's Lunches and Bakeries.

Fred Benioff, furrier, 133 Geary street.

Goldberg, Bowen & Co., grocers, 242 Sutter.

Goldstone Bros., manufacturers overalls and workingmen's clothing.

Independent Cleaning and Dyeing Works, 245 Van Ness So.

J. C. Hunken's Grocery Stores.

Kroehler Furniture Manufacturing Company.

Marquard's Coffee Shop and Catering Company.

Mission Hotel, 520 Van Ness So.

Petri Wine Company, Battery and Vallejo.

Pioneer Motor Bearing Company, Eddy and Van Ness.

San Francisco Biscuit Co. (located in Seattle.)

Sunset Towel Supply Co., 55 New Montgomery.

S. H. Kress Company Stores.

Standard Oil Company.

Van Emon, B. C., Elevators, Inc., 224 Fremont.

West Coast Macaroni Company.

Woolworth's Stores.

All Non-Union independent taxicabs.

Barber shops that do not display the shop card of the Journeymen Barbers' Union are unfair

are appropriated. From Congressman Richard J. Welch, telegram on the same matter.

Referred to Labor Clarion—Circular letter from California State Federation of Labor, urging early registration of voters required of citizens to be allowed to vote this year, as the law has been changed and all citizens must re-register.

Requests Complied With—Justus S. Wardell, chairman of the Birthday Ball for the President to be held January 30 in the Civic Auditorium, proceeds to be devoted to relieve victims of infantile paralysis; on motion, Council donated \$100 for this worthy cause, as in preceding years. From Molders No. 164, requesting that the name of John G. Ils Company be removed from the "We Don't Patronize List."

Report of Executive Committee—Controversy between Garage Employees' Union and the Evans Auto Renting Company and garages has been adjusted, the agreement signed, and all men returned to work, after conferences held between the parties with the assistance of the officers of the Council. Controversy between Filling Station Employees and Claremar Stations, parties notified to appear before committee at the next meeting. Controversy between Gernhardt & Strohmeier, retail stove dealers, and Stove Mounters No. 61, involving jurisdictional questions between this union and the Gas Appliance and Stove Fitters, was considered at length, both unions being represented by committees, who agreed to frame articles of agreement settling matters in dispute and return to next meeting for approval of committee and submission to the firm. Report concurred in.

Report of the Organizing Committee—Recommended the affiliation of Metal Polishers and Platers, Local 128, and the seating of their delegate, W. L. Burnett. Report concurred in.

Reports of Unions—Window Cleaners have controversy with the Waxman Bakery. Pastemakers thank unions for assistance and announce all grocers in this city are co-operating in their grievance against the West Coast Macaroni Company, and ask trade unionists to continue the co-operation. Machinists' strike still on in the marine shops; have in conjunction with molders settled all differences with the Enterprise Foundry 100 per cent; settled also with Judson Pacific Company; Bethlehem Shipbuilding Corporation still fighting the union and influencing other companies to continue the struggle. Musicians report that Warfield Theater has discontinued the orchestra and also laid off some stage hands; request union public to patronize the Golden Gate Theater, which continues employing an orchestra, and to demand the use of human music in all places of amusement and entertainment. Upholsterers report that the Dornbecker Furniture Company has discontinued the manufacture of overstuffed furniture. Molders in settling their eleven-year-old controversy with the Enterprise Foundry feel greatly satisfied with the result, as it restores the wage schedule of 1929. Millinery Workers ask for continued co-operation in their splendid organizing endeavors. Garage Employees thank officers of the Council for assistance in effecting the settlement with Evans Auto Renting Company garages. Auto Mechanics No. 1305 adjusted all their differences with the same company as the Garage Employees; thank all who attended their recent ball, and held an open meeting for explanation of the unemployment insurance legislation. Ornamental Iron Workers will organize the Judson Pacific Company; are making progress. Sailors' Union lost many men in the shipwreck of the Iowa; at the convention in Washington they are urging a uniform agreement for all ports in the United States and are being opposed by the International.

Special Committee on Mooney case reported a change in the date of the delegate meeting to February 9, at 8 p. m., on account of postponement

of case and inability of attorneys to come here before that time.

Nominations for Officers—Opened and closed for the evening, with the following results:

President, Edward D. Vandeleur; vice-president, Anthony L. Noriega and John F. Shelley; secretary-treasurer, John A. O'Connell; sergeant-at-arms, Patrick O'Brien; trustees, Anthony Brenner, John P. Coghlan and James E. Hopkins; executive committee (thirteen to be elected), William Casey, George Castleman, Jerry Callahan, James Coulsting, Charles Crawford, Mary Everison, Harry Hook, Theodore Johnson, George Kidwell, S. K. Leman, John Metcalf, Joseph McManus, Clarence King, Patrick O'Brien, Orville Pratt, M. Rowan, William Sanders, Henry Schmidt, William E. Thompson, William H. Urmy, Fred West, L. D. Wilson and John C. Daly; organizing committee (seven to be elected), John F. Bertucci, Anthony Brenner, H. G. King, Thomas G. Miller, Ed McLaughlin, John F. Shelley, William H. Urmy; directors of Labor Clarion (five to be elected), James Coulsting, George S. Hollis, John A. O'Connell, Walter Otto; law and legislative committee (seven to be elected), Roe H. Baker, Emil G. Buehrer, Henry Heidelberg, Theodore Johnson, George Kidwell, Lillian Olney and Edward D. Vandeleur; directors of Labor Council Hall Association (three to be elected), William P. McCabe, George S. Hollis and John P. McLaughlin.

Nominations will be reopened and closed at next meeting. The election will take place Friday evening, January 31. Polls open from 7:30 to 9 p. m.

New Business—Moved to remove from the "We Don't Patronize List" the name of John J. Ils Company. Motion carried.

Moved that the State Federation of Labor be requested to have legal counsel attend the hearing in the silicosis cases; motion carried. Moved that the name of Dornbecker Furniture Manufacturing Company be removed from the "We Don't Patronize List"; motion carried.

Council receipts, \$621; expenditures, \$244.98.
Adjournment at 9:45 p. m.

Fraternally submitted.

JOHN A. O'CONNELL, Secretary.

OFFICERS OF CAP MAKERS

At a social session of the Cap Makers' Union Tuesday last the new officers were installed by President William E. Thompson, of Street Carmen's Union No. 1004. Dancing and refreshments followed the installation, with Miss Carmen Lucia in charge. The new officers are: Joseph Costamagna, chairman; Thomas E. Walsh, vice-chairman; Francis Hill, recording secretary, and Max Staub and Joseph Dorfman, members of the board of trustees.

Butchers' Union Ball

Featuring an elaborate program of vaudeville and dancing until 1 a. m. the retail meat handlers of the city celebrate Saturday night with their fifteenth annual entertainment and ball in the Civic Auditorium under the auspices of Butchers' Union No. 115.

The vaudeville will start at 8 o'clock. Twenty-five acts will include a mixture of comedy, acrobatic and toe dancing, singing by radio and stage stars and musical skits.

Three separate halls with three bands will provide all sorts of tunes for those who favor the light fantastic. One of the smaller halls will be fitted up in old-style rathskeller fashion with old-time music for the trippers. Another will have a jazz band. On the main floor Harry Payson's orchestra of forty-one pieces will dispense all of the latest dance hits. Dancing is scheduled to start at 10 o'clock.

James H. Coulsting Is Removed by Death

Death removed one of union labor's most beloved and respected members this week when James H. Coulsting, president of the Stationary Firemen's Union, passed away.

For many years an employee of the Spring Valley Water Company, and since the acquisition of that company's holdings by the city continuing as an attache of the San Francisco Water Department, "Jim" Coulsting was an ardent trade unionist and participated in every activity of organized labor in this city for more than a score of years.

He had been a member of the executive committee of the Labor Council for nineteen years, and had he lived he would have realized his ambition to round out twenty years' service as a member of that important body, as he was renominated at the last meeting of the Council for the ensuing term. His popularity insured his re-election. Also for many years "Jim" had been a member of the board of trustees of the Labor Clarion. He had been president of the Firemen's Union for many years.

Death resulted from a fall sustained when returning home after having been on duty two shifts at the pumping plant where he was employed. Stricken by apoplexy as he mounted the stairs to his apartment, his skull was fractured. He was removed to the Franklin Hospital, but never regained consciousness. He died on Monday last. Funeral services were held Wednesday afternoon at a Mission street undertaking parlor, which were attended by numerous friends and relatives. Interment was in Mount Olivet Memorial Park.

Deceased was about 67 years of age, and was born in England, coming to the United States in his boyhood. He leaves two sons, William and Milton Coulsting, to mourn his loss.

Slayers of Unionists Convicted of Murder

Last week, in Superior Judge Hodge's court at Tacoma, Wash., a jury brought in a verdict of guilty of manslaughter against Peter Marinoff, H. H. Hiatt, Theodore Ferguson and J. L. Hanford as the result of the killing on the night of May 24, 1935, of William Usitalo, a picket on strike duty at the Tacoma plant of the Marinoff Northwest Brewing Company, and a member of the Seattle Teamsters' Union.

The outcome of this case is seen by observers as a warning to anti-labor employers or groups of employers who, with guns and gunmen, would

seek to deny to the worker the right to strike and to picket the operations of those against whom he is striking. Two of the defendants in the case had prison records; others were imported from long distances and unknown in this vicinity.

The trial was a much-publicized one, many columns being devoted to it in the daily press. Labor was gratified that Judge Hodge, who presided at the trial, showed throughout an unbiased and impartial attitude, upholding at all times the best traditions of the bench for fairness and honesty.

While the usual long procedure of appeals, motions for new trials, etc., may be looked forward to in this case, the guilt of the defendants has been established in the courts, and it is the expectation of fair-minded and liberty-loving citizens throughout the state that the guilty will eventually pay the just penalty for their acts.—"Washington State Labor News."

RE-ELECTS PRESIDENT

For the fifth consecutive time Bertha Del Carlo was re-elected president of Bakery and Confectionery Workers' Auxiliary No. 125 at the regular annual election of that organization last week. Other officers elected were: Mary McKay, vice-president; Mabel Sutton, business agent and financial secretary; Santina Fugiaza, recording secretary; delegates to the Labor Council, Bessie Parker, Santina Fugiaza and Mary McKay; delegates to the Label Section, Bessie Parker and Santina Fugiaza.

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLLS

The January issue of the "California Labor Market Bulletin," released recently by Edward L. Nolan, state labor commissioner, shows further gains in employment, payrolls and average weekly earnings in December, 1935, compared with the same month a year ago. In December, 1934, the number of employees on the payrolls of 1132 representative factories in California was 131,720, as compared with 141,502 employed by the same establishments during December, 1935. This represents an increase of 9782, or 7.4 per cent. The increase in the total volume of payrolls for the same firms was \$630,122, or 20.2 per cent, and the increase in the per capita average weekly earnings was 11.8 per cent.

Walter Mathewson Negotiating New Orleans Strike Settlement

A group of New Orleans steamship agents representing more than twenty lines met with W. G. Mathewson, Department of Labor conciliator, to discuss a mediation proposal for settling the dock strike at New Orleans, La.

The proposal was reported to have been approved by Joseph P. Ryan, president of the International Longshoremen's Association, and William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor.

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Plan to Name Judges On 'Yes' and 'No' Basis

Over the strenuous opposition of Edward D. Vandeleur, president of the California State Federation of Labor and also of the San Francisco Labor Council, and John A. O'Connell, secretary of the latter body, the judiciary committee of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors last week decided to recommend submission to the voters in May the plan provided by state law for election of Superior Court judges on a "yes" and "no" basis.

If the proposition is approved by the people, judges will hereafter have no opposition when they come up for re-election. As in the case of members of the Board of Education, the voters will be asked to indicate whether they want the person named on the ballot or not. Only the name of the incumbent judge will be on the ballot.

If the voters turn thumbs down, the governor, with the concurrence of the chief justice of the state Supreme Court, the presiding justice of the District Court of Appeal, and the attorney general, will name someone else. The appointee will hold office for one year, when the voters may indicate whether they want him to remain or not.

Leading the fight against the proposal, Vandeleur declared the plan "would throw the selection of judges into the hands of the corporations and a clique of attorneys." O'Connell was equally emphatic in opposing the plan, and Supervisor Dewey Mead, a new member of the board, said he was opposed to "giving life jobs to judges or anyone else."

Naturally, the proposal is favored by a majority of San Francisco's Superior Court judges because it gives incumbent judges "greater security in their positions."



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Culinary Crafts Notes

By C. W. PILGRIM

Wilson's old place, which operated for several years with a non-union crew and was closed after the firm went bankrupt, has been remodeled and reopened by Gene Compton with a full union crew of forty workers (among whom are fourteen waitresses) as a first-class restaurant. This house is at 333 Geary street. All of Mr. Compton's houses are strictly union, although he does not use our house card.

After much negotiating we have finally lined up the Bit of Sweden, at 554 Sutter street. This house has a highly trained staff of Swedish workers (who should be an asset to our unions), and it specializes in Swedish dishes. So if you want such food you should give this house a trial.

We have lined up the Kit Carson Buffet. We expected to experience some opposition here and we were not disappointed, as the management did not think it necessary to hire union dish and pot washers; but he finally agreed to recognize Miscellaneous Union No. 110 and all is now as it should be in this house.

Thursday, January 23, our business agents will have a conference with the management of the Bernstein houses. We will tell you the result in the next issue.

Cab drivers, please stay away from the Lyric hole in the wall on Jones street. This house is non-union, even if it is opposite the Cooks' Union headquarters.

The Coney Island, 1240 Market street, has chased out the union dishwasher and is using help picked up from the street. Stay out of the Coney Island.

Mother's Place, 1300 Fillmore street, has a news vender on it. This seems to worry some of the tradesmen on Fillmore street. The boss of the house had the news vender in court in an effort to move her, and a couple of shop keepers from the same block appeared as witnesses against her. But we won the case and the news vender stays on the job.

Retail Drivers, stay out of the Villa Buffet, 2400 Lombard street. We have a news vender on this house to let you know that the house is non-union.

Remember that all Foster's, Clinton's, White Taverns, Pig 'n' Whistles and the Roosevelt at Fifth and Mission are on our unfair list. Eat only where you see our union house card in the front window; then you can be sure that the place is 100 per cent union.

McGROARTY BILL INDORSED

San Bernardino Typographical Union No. 84 has adopted resolutions indorsing the McGroarty bill, now pending in the lower house of Congress, which incorporates the Townsend plan on a modified scale. The union declares that the enactment of the bill will "provide justifiable comfort for the aged pioneering builders of the nation and enlarge the opportunities of the young." The resolutions are being sent to the President, members of Congress and to various labor bodies.

PEONAGE IN SOUTHERN STATES

Charges of peonage conditions in the South's agricultural sections were renewed by speakers before the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union convention in Little Rock, Ark., last week. It was declared that members and officials of the Tenant Union had been terrorized by night riders in the eastern Arkansas plantation area, wherein churches had been burned and the homes of union farmers shot up by machine gun fire. Eviction notices have been served on workers on a plantation near Earle, Ark., because of their affiliation with the union.

States Need New Legislation To Participate in Federal Aid

In order to secure federal aid under the Social Security Act for state systems of old-age pensions, pensions for the blind and aid for dependent children, legislative action will be necessary in nearly every state in the Union, according to a survey by Adele Bloom published in the January "Social Security," monthly organ of the American Association for Social Security.

Only eighteen of the existing old-age pension laws were found to comply with the federal requirements for old-age assistance at the beginning of 1936, the article revealed. Twenty-two states will have to make wide changes, ranging from implementing their laws with mandatory features to providing state contributions, and nine states will be required to pass new legislation if they are to benefit from the federal system.

With regard to mothers' pension laws, now on the statute books of all but two states, the article found that only seven states and the District of Columbia have the type of legislation which enables them to avail themselves immediately of the federal aid for dependent children. In other states many changes will have to be made.

Of the thirty-one states with pension laws for the blind, twenty-three will have to revise them in accordance with federal conditions, which are very similar to those stipulated for old-age pensions. In addition, seventeen states will have to pass new legislation if they are to avail themselves of the blind aid promised by the federal government.

In only four states—California, Mississippi, Nebraska, Wisconsin—and the District of Columbia does the present legislation in these three fields comply fully with the federal standards without further amendment.

Whenever state laws comply in their provisions with the federal conditions, the Social Security Act sets up assistance to the states to the extent of 50 per cent of the cost of the old-age and blind pension grants, but limited to \$15 per month for each pensioner. The federal government also will assist the states by grants of one-third of the cost of payments for dependent children.

PICKETING LAW REPEAL ASKED

Repeal of the anti-picketing ordinance adopted by the city of Martinez more than twenty years ago is looked for.

A repealing ordinance was submitted to the City Council by Police Commissioner Erle Severson following receipt of a letter from the Contra Costa County Central Trades and Labor Council.

Curious Political Story

It is generally agreed that "somebody blundered" when the Democratic high command arranged the Jackson Day dinner at Washington at \$50 a plate. Of course, \$45 goes to wipe out the party deficit, but it is one of those things which are hard to explain, and naturally the administration's enemies are making the most of the opening.

Here's the curious story of that deficit:

It was incurred by "Johnny" Raskob and Jouett Shouse when those gentlemen were running the Democratic national committee. Part of the money was used in an attempt to elect "Al" Smith in 1928, and the remainder was poured out in a battle to head off the nomination of Roosevelt in the summer of 1932.

Shouse did the spending and Raskob put up the funds, taking the committee's I. O. U. Now Postmaster General Farley and other Roosevelt boosters are working their heads off to reimburse Raskob, and if they succeed, he will probably use the money to help finance this year's battle against Roosevelt.

Nothing stranger than that has developed in American politics in recent years.—"Labor."

Convention of Seamen

By a vote of 305 to 74 the International Seamen's Union convention in Washington, D. C., adopted that portion of Secretary Olander's report which criticized the West Coast unions referring to arbitration awards and agreements, according to press dispatches.

This has been taken to be a test of the strength of the "radical" element in comparison with that of the "conservatives."

West Coast delegates protested bitterly against Olander's criticism of their tactics and alleged violation of agreements. The West Coast bloc contended that Paul Scharrenberg, ousted from the local Seamen's Union, and secretary of the California State Federation of Labor, had given them bad advice during the tanker strike last summer, according to the dispatches.

SEEKS ACTION ON THIRTY-HOUR BILL

Chairman William P. Connery, Jr., of the House Labor Committee, threatens to introduce a petition to force consideration of his thirty-hour work-week bill if it does not come out of the rules committee soon. "I intend to ask for an immediate hearing before the rules committee," Connery said. "If I can not get it out of that body I will put a petition on the speaker's desk to force its consideration. We must get action this session."

SONGS FOR UNION WORKERS

To help its members sing the songs of labor, the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, through its educational department, has made available a twelve-inch double-sided record giving six songs. A special picked group of eight male voices made the records and these are now available at a low rate to all locals and are supplied free to the I. L. G. W. U. locals using them for their radio broadcasts.

MODESTO DEFENSE CONFERENCE

All members of the San Francisco Labor Council are invited to attend the meeting of the Modesto Defense Conference to be held January 26, at 2 p. m., in the Building Trades Temple, 200 Guerrero street. The conference has been called by the Joint Marine Modesto Defense Committee, Orville C. Pratt, secretary, by whom the invitation is issued.

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